

THE * AMERICAN * NUMISMATIST.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY IN THE INTEREST OF COIN COLLECTORS.

VOL. I.

PATERSON, N. J., SEPTEMBER, 1886.

No. 1.

U. S. FRACTIONAL CURRENCY.

BY E. C. HAROLDS.

This currency which a few years ago was so common is fast becoming rare, and there is scarcely one of these small bills which, if in good condition, will not bring twice its face value at the present time. In the following list I only name the *principal* characteristics of the different issues, but there are numerous slight alterations, such as light or dark shades, etc., in some of the denominations, which I have not thought of sufficient importance to mention, but which sometimes make quite a difference in their value.

FIRST ISSUE, 1862.—POSTAGE CURRENCY.

- 5c. Brown, perforated or unperforated.
- 5c. Brown, perforated or unperforated, with A B C.
- 10c. Green, perforated or unperforated.
- 10c. Green, perforated or unperforated, with A B C.
- 25c. Brown, perforated or unperforated.
- 25c. Brown, perforated or unperforated, with A B C.
- 50c. Green, perforated or unperforated.
- 50c. Green, perforated or unperforated, with A B C.

SECOND ISSUE, 1863.

- 5c. Portrait of Washington in gilt circle.
- 5c. Same, but reverse has gilt numbers and letters in corners.
- 10c. Portrait of Washington in gilt circle.
- 10c. Same, Rev. has gilt letters and numbers in corners.
- 25c. Portrait of Washington in gilt circle, Rev. purple or mauve.
- 25c. Same, Rev. has numerals in corners.
- 50c. Portrait of Washington in gilt circle.
- 50c. Same, with reverse carmine or scarlet, and gilt letters in corners.

Besides the above varieties of this issue a number of bills of each denomination were printed on split paper, which are rare.

THIRD ISSUE, 1864.

- 3c. Portrait of Washington, light or dark background.
- 5c. Portrait of Clark.
- 10c. Portrait of Washington, gilt values at sides.
- 25c. Portrait of Fessenden, gilt values at sides.

- 25c. Same, Rev. with gilt letters and numbers in corners.

FOURTH ISSUE, 1864.

- 5c. Portrait of Clark, with red reverse.
- 10c. Portrait of Washington, gilt values at sides.
- 10c. Same, with signature of Allison, Colby or Jeffries.
- 15c. Portraits of Grant and Sherman with Allison's signature, green or red back.
- 15c. Same, with Colby's signature, green or red back.
- 15c. Same, with Jeffries signature, green or red back.
- 25c. Portrait of Fessenden, gilt values at sides.
- 50c. Fig. of Liberty in centre, with or without gilt letters and numbers on reverse.
- 50c. Same, with red back.
- 50c. Portrait of Spinner, with or without gilt letters on reverse, and signature of Allison, Colby or Jeffries.

FIFTH ISSUE, 1865.

- 10c. Head of Liberty at left.
- 10c. Same, Treasury seal slightly smaller.
- 15c. Figure of Liberty at left.
- 15c. Same, Treasury seal slightly smaller.
- 25c. Portrait of Washington at left.
- 25c. Same, Treasury seal smaller.
- 50c. Portrait of Lincoln at right.

SIXTH ISSUE, 1868.

- 10c. Portrait of Meredith, green seal.
- 10c. Same, red seal.
- 25c. Portrait of Walker.
- 50c. Portrait of Crawford.
- 50c. Portrait of Dexter.
- 50c. Portrait of Stanton.

The above list is I believe complete or very nearly so; but if I have overlooked any important variety, I hope I shall be corrected at once.

Among the contents of the contribution plate at the morning service at St. James' Church, at London, a few days ago, was a coin that may well be termed a stranger, it being a unica, a bronze coin of the early days of Rome. As the coin gathered in the collection at St. James is of the earlier type of the second or 385 B. C. period, a fact demonstrated by the workmanship and design, as well as by the size, it is surely 2000 years old, and may possess a possible greater antiquity of 250 years.

(For the American Numismatist.)

COLONIAL COINS.

BY H. C. G.

NEW JERSEY.

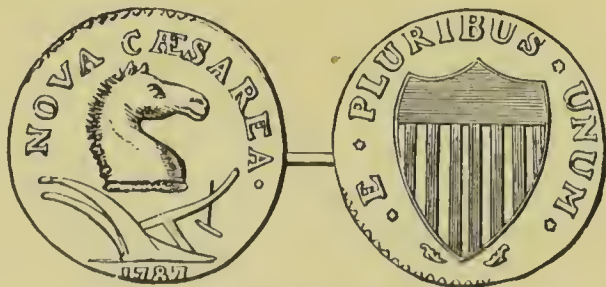
The first New Jersey coins legalized by the Legislature were the Mark Newby half-pence of 1682. These coins were tokens imported from Ireland in large quantities by Mark Newby, an emigrant; and the Legislature, perceiving the lack of small change, authorized their circulation. They are now exceedingly rare, selling as high as \$5 and upwards. Following is description:

No. 1. *Obverse*,—a king kneeling and facing the left, playing on a harp; a crown above. *Legend*, FLOREAT REX. *Reverse*,—St. Patrick standing, surrounded by people; a shield on the right.

No. 2. Smaller size. *Obverse*,—same as No. 1. *Reverse*,—St. Patrick standing with his right hand extended, and holding a double cross in his left; to the right, a church. *Legend*, IVIESCAT PLEBS.

No other varieties of coins were legalized until 1786, when the Legislature, then meeting at New Brunswick, gave Messrs. Albion Cox, Thomas Goadsby and Walter Mould permission to coin copper cents to the amount of £10,000; to be made in the state. The contractors were also bound to give one-tenth of the number of pieces struck to the state. Cox and Goadsby carried on their coining business in Elizabeth; and Mould, the other contractor, coined his share (one-third) in Morristown. Before proceeding with the business of coining, the contractors were compelled to give bonds to the Governor to the amount of £10,000, that they would honestly perform the contract.

There are about one hundred varieties of this cent; but the alterations in some of the designs are very slight. Following are descriptions of the different dates:



NEW JERSEY CENT.

1786.

Obverse,—a shield. *Legend*, E. PLURIBUS UNUM. *Reverse*,—head of horse facing toward the right; a plough beneath it. *Legend*, NOVA CAESAREA.

1787.

No. 1. *Obverse* and *Reverse* are both the same as those of 1786. This is the most common of New Jersey cents.

No. 2. *Obverse*,—same as No. 1. *Reverse*,—figure of Justice, facing toward the right, seated on the globe, and holding a flagstaff in her right hand; in her left hand a pair of scales. *Legend*, IMMUNIS COLUMBIA. This coin is very rare and has a very handsome design.

1788.

Obverse,—same as that of 1786. *Legend*, Same as 1786. *Reverse*,—horse's head and plough either to the right or the left. This date is rare.

VERMONT.

On the fifteenth of June, 1785, the Legislature of Vermont, meeting then at Norwich, passed a bill giving Reuben Harmon, Jr., the authority to coin copper for two years, beginning with the First of July, 1785; each coin to weigh one-third of a Troy ounce, and to be of genuine metal. Before commencing business, Harmon was compelled to give bonds amounting to about £5,000.

The mint was situated in Rupert, and was a very small affair, being about fifteen or sixteen feet square; the machinery was very simple, and was all worked by hand. One cent per second was the fastest coining done. Following is a description of the design selected by the committee from the Legislature:

Obverse, the sun rising over hills dotted with pine trees, a plough below; *legend*, VERMONTIS RES PUBLICA. *Reverse*,—an eye reflecting on thirteen stars; *legend*, QUARTA DECIMA STELLA. In 1786, the legend on the obverse was changed to VERMONTENSIVM RES PUBLICA.

In the latter part of 1786, Mr. Harmon applied to the Legislature for permission to continue the coinage for a longer term of years. The Legislature immediately passed a bill giving him the exclusive right for eight years longer. During the first three years, he was permitted to coin without paying anything to the State; but during the remainder of his term he was bound to pay two and one-half per cent. of the coins struck to the State.

In October, 1786, the design was altogether changed. On the obverse was a woman's head, laureated and facing toward the right; *legend*, VERMON AUCTORI. On the reverse was the Goddess of Liberty seated, and holding in her right hand a branch of olive, in her left a staff; *legend*, INDE ET LIB.

Those bearing the date of 1787 always bring a

large sum at a sale, as they are very rare. Following are descriptions of the different dates:



VERMONT CENT.

1785.

Obverse,—the sun rising over hills dotted with pine trees, a plough below; *legend*, VERMONTIS RES PUBLICA. *Reverse*,—an eye reflecting on thirteen stars; *legend*, QUARTA DECIMA STELLA.

1786.

No. 1. *Obverse*,—same as 1785; *legend*, VERMONTENSIVM RES PUBLICA. *Reverse* and *legend*,—same as 1785.

No. 2. *Obverse*,—a female head, laureated, and facing toward the right; *legend*, VERMON AUCTORI. *Reverse*,—Goddess of Liberty seated, and holding in her right hand a branch of olive, in her left a staff; *legend*,—INDE ET LIB.

1787.

Obverse,—a female head, laureated, and facing toward the right or left; *legend*, VERMON AUCTORI. *Reverse*,—Goddess of Liberty seated, and holding in her right hand a branch of olive, in her left a staff; *legend*, INDE ET LIB.

1788.

Obverse,—a female head, laureated, and facing toward the right; *legend*, VERMON AUCTORI. *Reverse*,—Goddess of Liberty seated, and holding in her right hand a branch of olive, in her left a staff; *legend*, INDE ET LIB. There are about twenty-five varieties of this date. Besides the above there are several other varieties of the Vermont cent, which were probably intended for circulation in Canada and the British Possessions. They are divided by their legends into two classes:

No. 1. *Obverse*,—VERMON AUCTORI; *reverse*,—BRITANNIA.

No. 2. *Obverse*,—GEORGIUS III. REX; *reverse*,—BRITANNIA, IMMUNE COLUMBIA, or INDE ET LIB. Nearly all of these were struck over English half-pence, and are considered rare, especially the IMMUNE COLUMBIA.

There were 1,453,000 of the old design five-cent pieces coined in 1883, while more than \$3,000,000.00 worth of the new design ("V") without the word "cents" were issued.

(For the American Numismatist.)

WAR CENTS.

BY C. E. LEAL.

Small change became so scarce in 1862 that store-keepers and other persons began to issue this private currency to supply the deficiency; and they continued to coin them in immense quantities until 1864, when the Government, to protect itself, was compelled to prohibit their further coinage or circulation. The first coinage of War Cents, or Tokens, or Store Cards, as they are sometimes called, took place in Cincinnati where nearly 900 varieties were issued, fully three times as many varieties as any other city issued except New York. A number of other western cities soon followed the example of Cincinnati, but it was not until the early part of 1863 that New York began to issue the famous Lindenmuller cents, of which there were more than a million coined; these were followed by the Knickerbocker tokens, consisting of many varieties. Altogether there were between 600 and 700 varieties issued from New York City. Ohio issued about 1300 varieties from 100 different cities and towns, more than any other state issued; New York State comes next after Ohio, with over 900 varieties.

When the Government stopped the coinage of these tokens there were upward of 20,000,000 of them in circulation, but there are in all probability not more than 1,000,000 in existence at the present time. In my estimation War Cents comprise one of the principal branches of Numismatics, and should occupy a prominent place in the cabinet of every American collector. It is impossible now to obtain a complete collection for any sum of money; but \$25 or \$30 should buy a very good collection for an amateur.

The great object of a collector should be to complete a series, that is to obtain one of every variety of any denomination that has been coined. The United States coins most sought for on this account are cents, dimes and half-dollars, because there are fewer breaks in these denominations than in the others. The only year in which no cent was coined was in 1815; while dimes are lacking in 1799, 1806, '08, '12, '13, '15, '16, '17, '18, '19 and '26; and half-dollars are lacking in 1798, '99 and 1800.

The general use of gold was first introduced in modern Europe by the Florentines, in 1252. The gold pieces which they coined were of a handsome design and intrinsically were worth about \$3.

(THE)

American * Numismatist.

Edited by C. E. LEAL.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE.

UNITED STATES AND CANADA,	- - - - -	50 cts.
FOREIGN COUNTRIES,	- - - - -	60 cts.
SINGLE NUMBERS,	- - - - -	5 cts.

ADVERTISING TERMS.

	1 INSERTION.	3 INSERTIONS.	6 INSERTIONS.
½ Inch, - - -	\$.50.	\$ 1.25.	\$ 2.00.
1 Inch - - -	.80.	2.00.	3.25.
½ Column (4 inches),	3.00.	7.50.	12.00.
1 Column, - - -	5.50.	14.00.	22.50.
1 Page, - - -	10.00.	25.00.	40.00.

Not more than 60 words printed in an inch advertisement.

TERMS.—*Cash in advance.* All advertisements, exchange notices, etc., intended for publication in our next number must reach us before the 25th of this month. Subscribers will confer a great favor by remitting by postal note, money order or registered letter, instead of postage stamps.

Address all communications to

C. E. LEAL,

149 Ellison Street,

Paterson, N. J.

Entered as Second-Class Matter at Paterson Post Office.

SEPTEMBER, 1886.

TO OUR NUMISMATIC FRIENDS.

American coin collectors have for a long time felt the want of a first-class magazine devoted *solely* to their own interests; it is to supply this want that we issue this month the first number of **THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIST**. We desire to make this the best and most reliable magazine of its kind, but, to accomplish this, we need the subscription and hearty support of *every* American collector; and we sincerely hope that you will show your appreciation of our efforts by subscribing at once. The price is very low and you may be sure you will receive the worth of your money.

We will be glad at all times to receive any information that will be of interest to our readers, and will pay "highest" prices for articles on coins or currency, by experienced writers. We also desire catalogues of dealers and auction-sale notices of coins, etc.

We state for the benefit of advertisers, that our fixed limit is sixty (60) words per inch. Our advertising terms are so low that it does not pay us to crowd a two or three inch "ad." in a one-inch space.

Young collectors should read the article on "Coin Collecting as an Investment." It is written by a well-known and reliable collector, and proves that a collection can be started with but a small outlay.

On account of an accident to the editor, this number has been delayed for more than a month. We thank our subscribers for waiting so long.

This number consists of twelve pages, but hereafter it will most likely have sixteen.

SPECIAL OFFERS.

To increase our subscription list, we make the following offers:

To all who send us two subscriptions we will give two varieties of Confederate bills, or three large U. S. cents.

To all who send us four subscriptions we will give two varieties of Colonial bills, or eight varieties of war cents.

To all who send us ten subscriptions we will give a \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, and \$100 Confederate bill.

The above offers will hold good until October 1. We intend to have at least 2000 subscribers by that time.

A good way to clean gold or silver coins, and one which will not injure them in any way, is to wash them with castile soap and water, and then rub them with a piece of chamois skin. Copper coins should not be cleaned unless they are very much defaced by verdigris and rust, and even then nothing that can scratch the coin should be used.

The first gold coined by the United States government were the Five and Ten dollar pieces of 1795. They are both valuable now, the former being worth about \$10, and the latter \$20.

Ten thousand pounds was appropriated in 1872 by the government of Great Britain for the purchase of coins for the British Museum.

✦ Exchange * Department. ✦

NOTICE: Exchanges will be inserted in this department free of charge for subscribers only. We reserve the right to reject any exchange.

500 mixed foreign stamps for every 6 large U. S. cents or 4 half-cents in good condition; also 10 stamp and coin papers for every "V" nickel without the word cents, or piece of fractional currency. C. E. Leal, 149 Ellison St., Paterson, N. J.

TRANSLATION OF A FEW LATIN LEGENDS ON AMERICAN COINS.

AUCTORI PLEBIS:—By the authority of the people.

E PLURIBUS UNUM:—One composed of many.

ROSA AMERICANA:—The American rose.

NOVA CÆSAREA:—New Jersey.

NON VI VIRTUTE VICI:—I conquered by virtue, not by force.

GEORGIUS, DEI GRATIA, MAGNÆ BRITANNIÆ, FRANCIÆ ET HIBERNIÆ REX:—George, by the grace of God, King of Great Britain, of France, and of Ireland.

INDE ET LIB:—(Contraction.) Independence and Liberty.

AMERICA INIMICA TYRANS:—America, hostile to tyrants.

DENARIUM TERRÆ MARIÆ:—Penny of Maryland.

VERMONTIS RES PUBLICA:—Republic of Vermont.

VOCE POPULI:—By the voice of the people.

QUARTA DECIMA STELLA:—The fourteenth star. (Vermont was the fourteenth state).

NOVA EBORAC, NEO EBORACUS, or NEO EBORACENSIS:—New York.

VIRT ET LIB:—(Contraction). Virtue and Liberty.

NOVA CONSTELLATIO:—The new constellation. (The United States).

IN UNITATE FORTITUDO:—There is strength in union.

LIBER NATUS LIBERTATEM DEFENDO:—Born free, I defend my liberty.

GEORGIUS TRIUMPHO:—I, George, triumph.

CRESCITE ET MULTIPLICAMINI:—Increase and multiply.

VERMONTENSIVM RES PUBLICA:—The republic of Vermont.

LIBERTAS JUSTECIA:—Liberty by justice.

IMMUNIS COLUMBIA:—Free America.

VERMON AUCTORI:—By the authority of Vermont.

EXCELSIOR:—Upwards; higher.

The weight of your \$20 gold piece should be 51.6 grains, but the law permits a variation of 1-2 grain from this; \$10 pieces weigh 25.8 grains. A grain of gold is worth 4 cents, nearly.

There are a half dozen or more varieties of the 1793 copper cent known to collectors. These coins, if in good condition, are worth from three to fifteen dollars.

Coin collectors, subscribe for this paper.

THEIR FIRST APPEARANCE.

Envelopes were first used in 1839.

The first daily newspaper appeared in 1702.

Gold was first discovered in California in 1848.

The first newspaper advertisement appeared in 1652.

The coinage of silver was commenced in the U. S. mint in 1794.

The first almanac was printed by George Von Furback in 1460.

The first American copper cent was coined in New Haven, Ct., in 1667.

In 1558, the first coins with milled edges were struck in the Tower of London.

The first newspaper printed in the United States was published in Boston on September 25th, 1790.

Chinese cash were first cast about 1110, or about 1120 B. C., soon after the beginning of the Chan dynasty.

The United States coin of the highest value is the twenty dollar (double-eagle) gold piece, the coinage of which was commenced in 1849, of which date but one specimen is known to exist, and that is in the Cabinet of Coins in the U. S. Mint at Philadelphia. The eagle or ten dollar piece, however, was the first gold coin struck. It was issued in 1795. This coin did not bear on its face any value, whatever. None were struck in 1802, nor from 1804 to 1838. The half-eagle or five dollar piece was issued in 1795. None were coined, however, in 1816, nor 1817. Of the quarter-eagles or two-and-one-half dollar pieces the coinage was commenced in 1796, none being issued in 1799, 1800, 1801, 1802, 1803, 1809, 1810, 1811, 1812, 1813, 1814, 1815, 1816, 1817, 1818, 1819, 1820, 1822, 1823, 1828. The coinage of the three dollar piece began in 1854, while the one dollar gold piece was first struck in 1849. In 1882 only six hundred and thirty twenty dollar gold pieces were struck, and that date will soon be very scarce.

It has been estimated that the loss upon the paper currency of our country, by wear and damage, is one and a half per cent. of the entire issue, equal to \$6,500,000.

The oldest bank note in existence is one issued by the Imperial Bank of China, 1399 B. C. It is now in the St. Petersburg Museum.

A gentleman at Bryon, Ohio, Q. H. Grasser, M. D., claims to have more than 17,000 coins, ancient and modern, in his collection.

WHERE BANKING ORIGINATED.

The term "bank" in reference to commerce signifies a place of deposit of money, and is derived from the Italian *banco*, a seat or bench, because the early custodians and dealers in money in Italy were accustomed to sit on benches in the market-places of the principal towns.

During the middle ages, in which commerce was but little developed, there could be no field open for banking as a business; but in the revival of business in the twelfth century, and when the cities of Italy engrossed nearly all the trade of Europe, the necessity arose again for the employment of bankers. The successful manufacturing efforts of the Florentines brought them into commercial dealings with different countries in Europe, and thence arose the establishment of banks as private concerns.

The earliest public bank established in modern Europe was that of Venice, which was founded in 1157. About the year of 1350 the cloth merchants of Barcelona, then a very wealthy body, added the business of banking to their other commercial pursuits, being authorized so to do by an ordinance of the King of Aragon, which contained the important stipulation that they should be restricted from acting as bankers until they should have given sufficient security for the liquidation of their engagements. In 1401, a bank was opened by the functionaries of the city, which was both a bank of deposit and circulation, the first of the kind ever established in Europe.

The Bank of Genoa was planned and partly organized in 1345, but was not brought into operation until 1407, when the numerous loans which the Republic had contracted with its citizens were consolidated and formed the nominal capital of the bank. As security for its capital in the hands of the Republic, this bank, which was given the name of the Chamber of Saint George, received in pledge the island of Corsica.

RECENT DISCOVERIES OF OLD COINS.

Hundreds and thousands of very small antique coins have been exhumed from the square in front of the Teatro Fenice in Naples, which on being cleaned proved to have been coined by the Dukes of Athens and the Princes of Achaia, who reigned over portions of Greece after the second crusade.

On the sixteenth of last month (June), while J. D. McClain was superintending the excavation of the new reservoir at Huntington, Pa., he discov-

ered a sealed earthen pot, which on examination proved to be filled with old American and Mexican gold and silver coins. Their intrinsic value alone will amount to several thousands of dollars.

A great amount of ancient Roman coins of all descriptions, together with arms, chain-armor, daggers, brooches, pottery, and ornamented objects in gold, silver, bronze, iron, bone and glass, have been recently found at Eining, which is situated at the junction of the Abens river and the Danube. This city of Eining is on the site of a great fortified Roman camp, which is supposed to have been the center of all roads leading to and from Germany, Austria and the Netherlands.

COIN COLLECTING AS AN INVESTMENT.

BY ———.

Five or six years ago, while a student in one of our principal Eastern schools, I was presented with a small collection of United States and Foreign coins, together with a few Confederate bills and pieces of fractional currency. In a short time I became so interested in Numismatics that I decided to expend the greater part of my pocket-money in enlarging my collection. I soon made the acquaintance of proprietors of small stores and other persons who daily handle large quantities of small change; these as a rule were very glad to get rid of all strange looking money, and would often sell me quite rare pieces at less than their intrinsic value. In this way and by careful expenditure to a well-known dealer, I obtained a good sized collection; but for the past three years I have been dependent upon dealers and auction-sales for its advancement. Altogether I have not spent more than \$500 on coins, but my collection alone would bring almost twice that at auction; and besides my collection I have many duplicates laid away which are fast becoming valuable. Even had I not gained a cent on my collection, the pleasure and information I have obtained in making it would fully repay me; and, in conclusion I would advise all who are not now collectors to become such at once.

U. S. Trade Dollars were first coined in 1873, and were discontinued in 1884. Their intrinsic value is about eighty-five cents. Those bearing the dates of 1882, '83 and '84 are proofs struck for collectors, and are worth from \$2.00 to \$2.50.

Pure gold is worth \$602,793.00 per ton, while pure silver is worth \$37,705.00 per ton.

Correspondence * Department.

This department is intended for the exchange of opinions on the different branches of Numismatics. Any information relative to questions published here will be thankfully received by the Editor.

ED. AMERICAN NUMISMATIST:

I have a coin made of china about the same size of a common U. S. cent; but about three times as thick. On one side is a Chinese or Japanese character cut in black, and on the other a dragon or snake slightly raised, and of a greenish-blue color. Could any of your readers tell me when it was coined and its value?

COLLECTOR.

Can anyone tell me the name of the first coin journal issued in this country, its date, and also the name of its publisher?

C. E. LEAL.

NEW YORK, July 1, 1886.

ED. AMERICAN NUMISMATIST:

Dear Sir.—To have a complete collection of Confederate bills must you have one of all the different letters and series?

J. BROWN.

ED. AMERICAN NUMISMATIST:

Will some of the readers of the AMERICAN NUMISMATIST kindly inform me as to the correct number of "V" nickels "without cents" coined in 1883; also the number of the old style nickels coined in 1883?

M. L. E.

(The answers to your questions are in this number.—ED.)

* New * Publications. *

NOTICE TO PUBLISHERS. We desire to exchange with every paper in the world published in the interests of coin, stamp, or curiosity collectors. Please send two copies.

The Stamp and Coin Gazette of Altoona, Pa., is the best coin and stamp paper we have received yet. The May number contains one or two articles of special interest to coin collectors. The June number is also good.

Our handsomest and best exchange in the stamp line is *The Empire State Philatelist* of New York City. The June and July numbers of this journal are all that could be desired.

The Philatelist is a very creditable magazine, published quarterly in Philadelphia.

Mr. David J. Hickey, of New York, is preparing a new directory for collectors. It will have a large circulation and cannot fail to benefit all who have their names in it. (See advertisement on another page.)

The Philatelic News is a well edited magazine from Fitchburg, Mass.

We have also received the *Philatelic Herald*, *Mystic World*, *American Agent*, *Riverside Echo*, and one or two others.

Dealers will please accept thanks for the following catalogues: Coin Catalogues, F. M. Emery, Scott Stamp and Coin Co., Lynnan H. Low, and J. G. Bingham. Stamp and Curiosity Catalogues, W. G. Walz, R. B. Trouslot, R. R. Bogert, and J. T. Henderson.

NOTES.

The first paper money circulated in America was the Massachusetts bills of credit, issued in December, 1690, and amounting to over \$200,000.

To clean copper coins, take dilute sulphuric acid, 1 to 10 of water, the water at ninety degrees Fahrenheit; then wash them well in hot water and dry with a warm cloth. Warm water, soap and soft brush will clean silver coins sufficiently.

The standard of Roman gold was the *aureus*, worth, in our computation, about \$5.10. The smallest gold coin was the *Simpulum*, whose weight was 18.06 grains. It was worth 20 Sestertii. Some were struck weighing 40, 60, 80 grains.

The greatest coinage of the large United States copper cents took place in 1851, when 9,889,707 pieces were struck off; while the smallest coinage was made in 1795, with 82,000 pieces. The largest number of half-cents were coined in 1809, consisting of 1,154,572 pieces, and the smallest number in 1831, with 2,200 pieces.

An impression prevails with some, that the majority of ancient coins offered in America are counterfeit. This is absurd. The proportion of counterfeit antiques to the genuine, is less than that of greenbacks. The only coins counterfeited are the rare and costly gold and silver specimens, which do not cross the sea. Do not be alarmed as to this, the handling of a counterfeit is a chance less than that of a thunder stroke.

The United States has been the richest gold and silver producing country in the world, though but very little of the precious metals were found here before the discovery of gold in California in 1848. The chief production was in the southern states. The total amount of gold mined in these states from the discovery of the metal until 1873 was \$20,000,000. From 1848 until 1873 the total value of the gold product of the United States was \$1,241,000,000.

NOTES.

There is \$40,000,000 of unclaimed money in the vaults of the U. S. Treasury.

There are about fifty collectors of gold coins in the United States at present, says the *Museum*.

The smallest book in the world is half the size of a postage stamp and is an edition of the sacred book of the Sikhs, belonging to the Earl of Dufferin.

A two-page letter autograph by G. Washington recently brought \$75 at auction in New York, but one by Charles V., the great Spanish monarch, brought only \$7.

Laborers digging on the site of General Grant's tomb on the Manhattanville bluff recently found, about five feet below the surface, a Spanish piece of silver worth about twenty-five cents, and several George III. shillings. The Spanish piece is well-preserved. It bears date of 1772, and the profile of Carolus III. is perfectly distinct.

The collecting of old coins is a pursuit engaged in by the older and more wealthy class of people. The main object is to get a complete set of the United States coins of every issue. Such a collection is worth a very large sum, and there is hardly a collector who has the entire set. Among the coins most eagerly sought for are the dollars of 1804, quarters of 1827, cents of 1799 and 1804, and all coins used in the colonies before they were united.

Between 1850 and 1880 the world coined £1,022,000,000 of gold, yet the stock of gold coin in the latter year exceeded that of 1850 by only £490,000,000; the money had been twice minted in thirty years. During that interval the average coinage of the world had been £34,000,000 per annum, of which £18,000,000 consisted of old coin and the remaining £16,000,000 were made up partly from the mines, partly from old candlesticks, snuff boxes, etc., of the last generation.

The 1804 dollar is the rarest piece among the American series. Many of them have been sold for \$1,000. The reason of their rarity is that in 1804 was the war with the Barbary pirates. An expedition was sent over from the United States. The expedition staid much longer than was expected, and as money was needed, the whole amount of the 1804 dollars coined was sent there. The sailors who received these dollars gave them to the natives for supplies and for presents for their friends at home. The natives used them as "amulets" or charms, and most of them were carried far into the interior.—*Youth's Ledger*.

The dies from which the first United States cents, those coined at New Haven and called the Franklin, were cast, are now used as paper weights in a counting room at New Haven, Conn.

The three-cent piece was coined from 1851 to 1873 inclusive, with the exception of the year 1857, and ranges in value from the coin of 1855 at \$2 for a fine specimen, down to merely nominal prices, which are not worthy of tabulation.

The silver for which Judas betrayed his master was coined money. The progress of the art of coining is a fair index of the progress of the ages. First there were only rude stamps on chunks of silver or other metal. Then the stamps were made larger, but no attempt was made to fill out the mould. The more modern coins are perfect all over, the ornamental part covering the rim as well as the faces. Some of the medals that have been coined to commemorate various events are the most beautiful specimens of die cutting. There is naturally more scope for the artist to produce a design on a medal.

COUNTERFEITING COINS.

It has been discovered that the man who counterfeits our coins believes in smaller profits and safer returns. The newest thing in counterfeiting is this: Five dollar gold piece, coinage of 1881, composed of: Gold-fineness, 798, value, \$4.43; silver, 01.2; platinum, 03.2; copper, 00.1, value, \$4.47 1-2. This operation of a ten per cent. margin of gold value was detected in Boston, and the chief of the secret service is puzzling his brain to find out how the coin is made. Its existence, however, suggests a new system of counterfeiting, which may affect our coinage seriously by and by. We may next expect to hear that the silver dollar is operated upon, and even if using the government proportion of alloy, the counterfeiter makes a silver margin of twenty-one per cent., and runs fewer risks of detection. Germans, or some persons in Germany, are counterfeiting our coins to a considerable extent. Theirs are clumsy imitations in some respects, but they are successfully passed off upon green immigrants, who turn up with them far inland. Our nickel five-cent piece is worth intrinsically only 1 1-4 cents, and, using the standard alloy, only there is a margin of profit of 3 3-4 cents, which is enough to tempt the counterfeiter. Nobody knows how many millions of our hundred million stock of nickels may be spurious. Belgium and France share with Germany the notoriety of being the best counterfeiters of our coin.—*Exchange*.

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